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ACTION

COMICS® WEEKLY

NO. 618

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SUPERMAN • BLACKHAWK
WILD DOG • GREEN LANTERN
DEADMAN



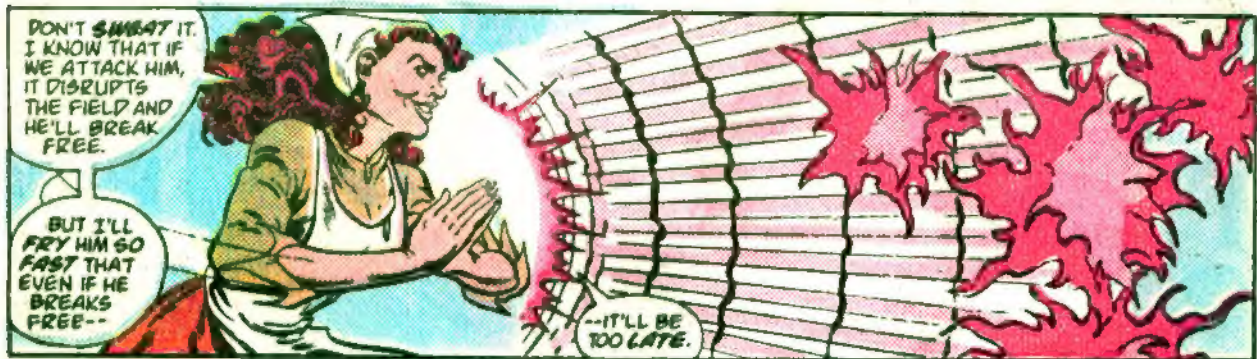
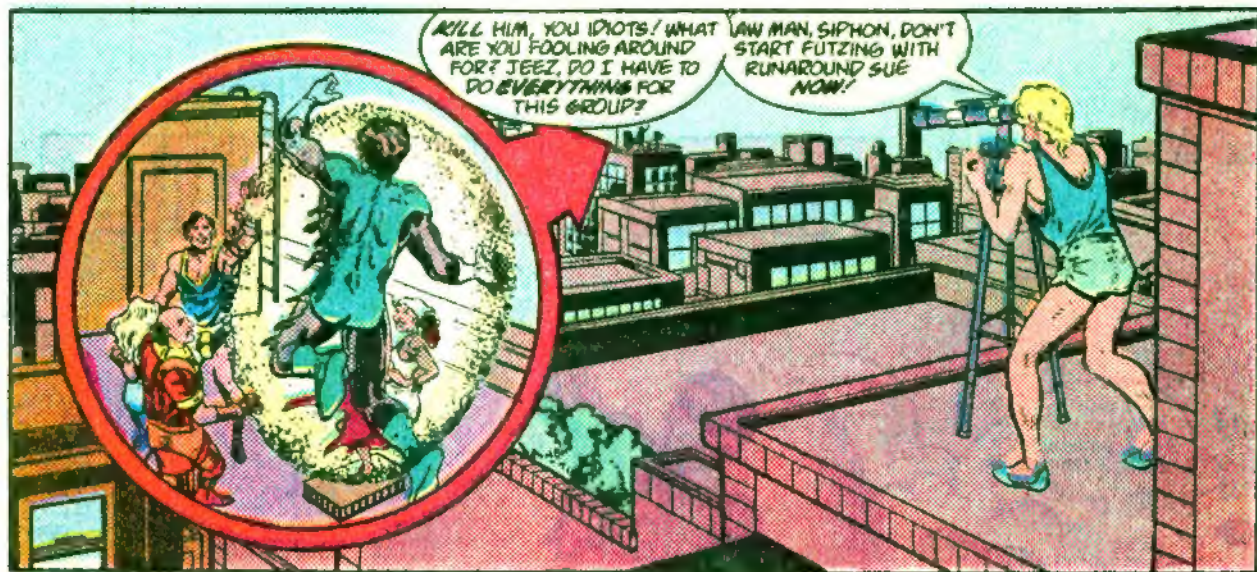
BOGDANOVIC & ANDERSON '88
BY INFINITO & ANDERSON '86

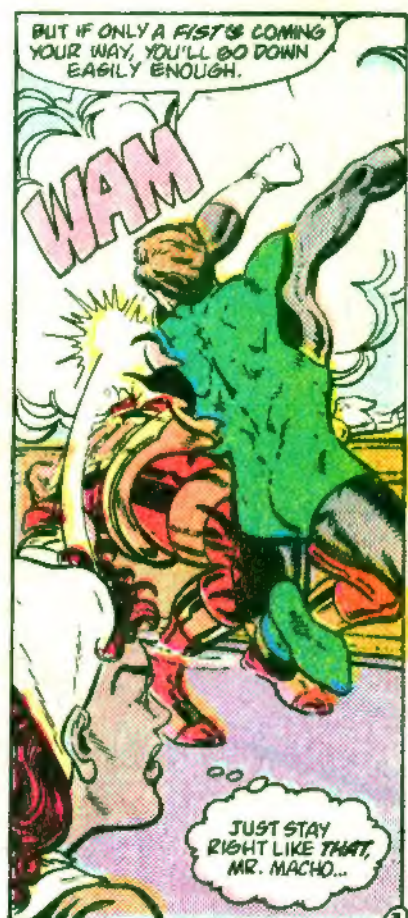
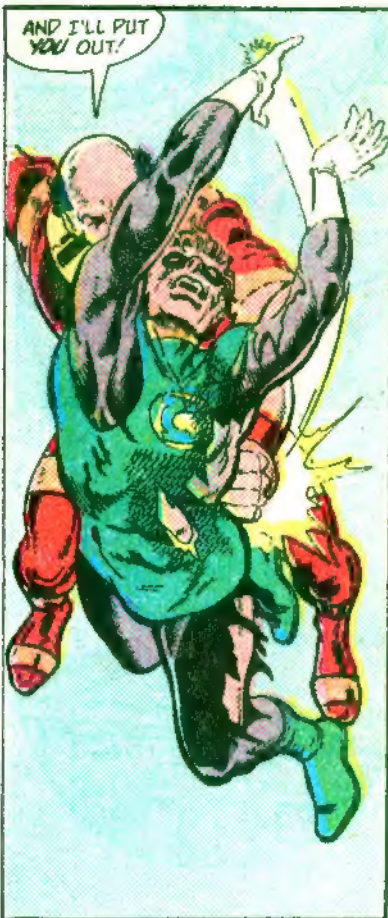
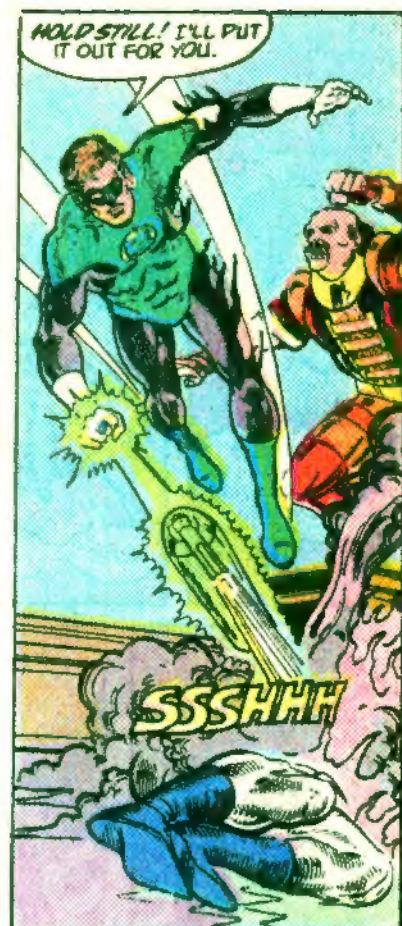
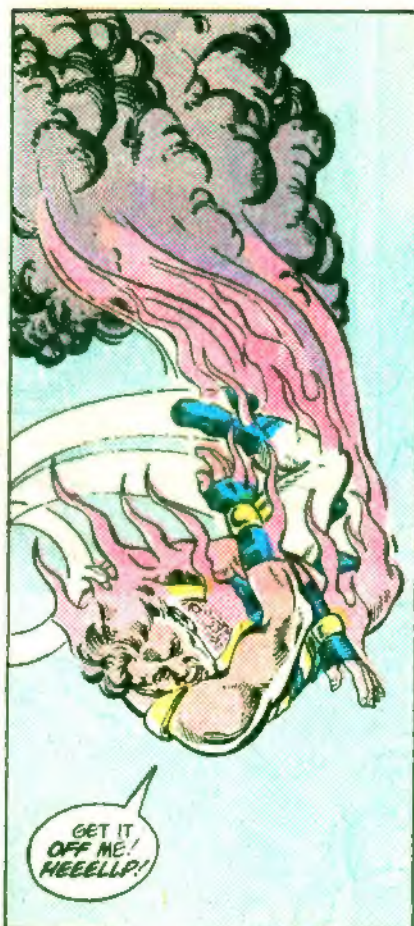
GREEN LANTERN

FIRST ENCOUNTER



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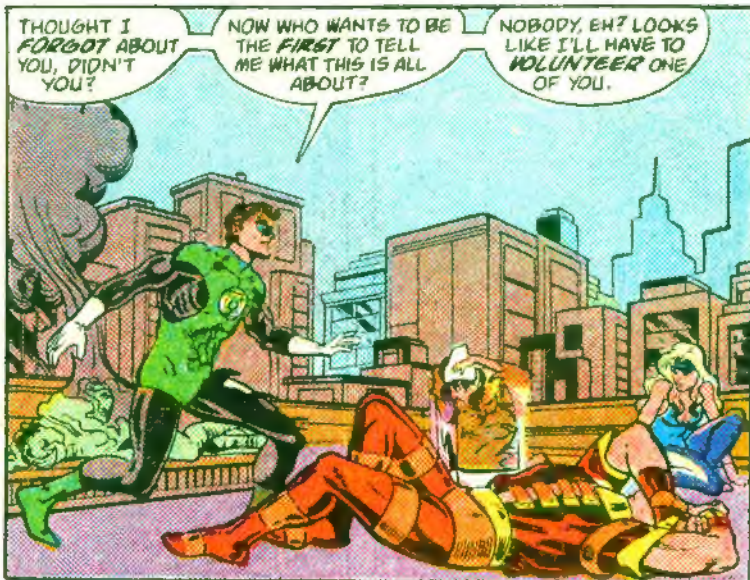




...AND MY NEXT
PYRO BLAST'LL DO
MORE THAN SINGE
YOUR COSTUME.



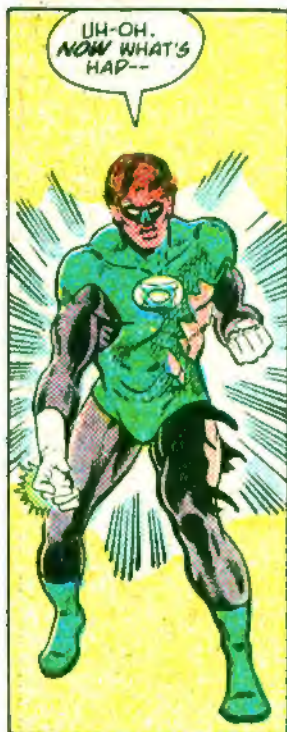
SLUG: HEY!



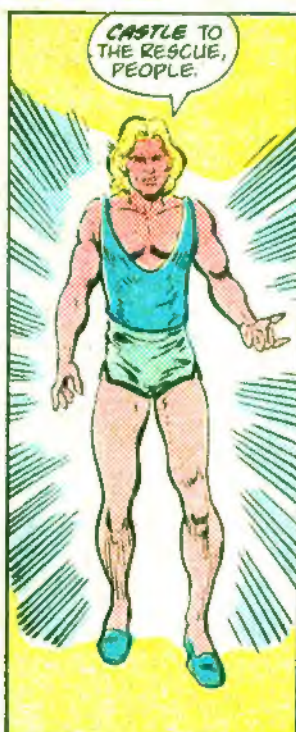
THOUGHT I
FORGOT ABOUT
YOU, DIDN'T
YOU?

NOW WHO WANTS TO BE
THE FIRST TO TELL
ME WHAT THIS IS ALL
ABOUT?

NOBODY, EH? LOOKS
LIKE I'LL HAVE TO
VOLUNTEER ONE
OF YOU.



UH-OH.
NOW WHAT'S
HAP--

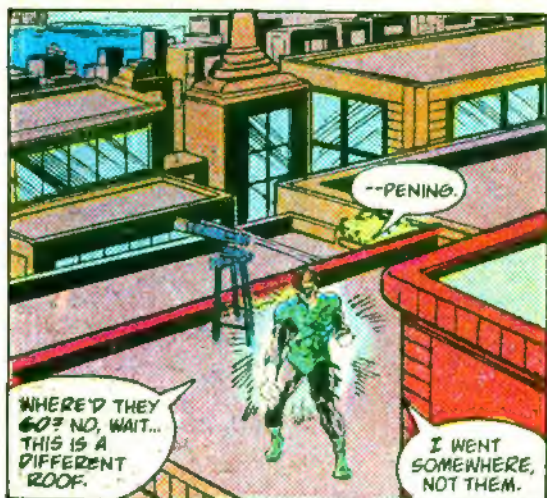


CASTLE TO
THE RESCUE,
PEOPLE.



WHAT
THE HECK
HAPPENED?

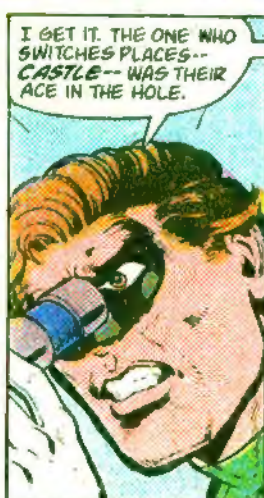
DON'T START WITH
THE QUIZ SHOW, NOW,
YOU HIGH-SPEED BIMBO.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LANTERN'S ONLY A
FEW MILES AWAY.



--PENING.

WHERE'D THEY
GO? NO, WAIT...
THIS IS A DIFFERENT
ROOF.

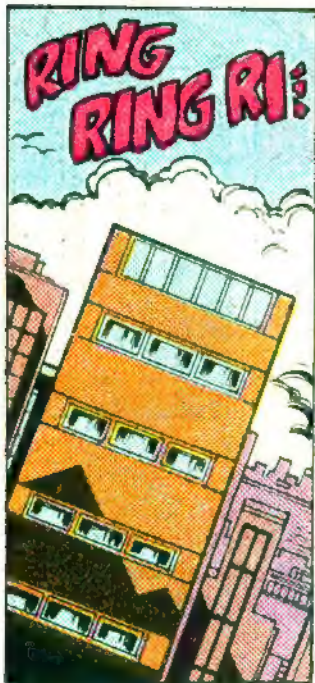
I WENT
SOMEWHERE,
NOT THEM.



I GET IT. THE ONE WHO
SWITCHES PLACES--
CASTLE-- WAS THEIR
ACE IN THE HOLE.

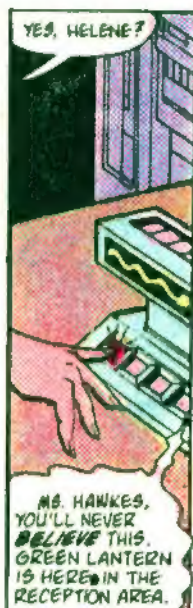


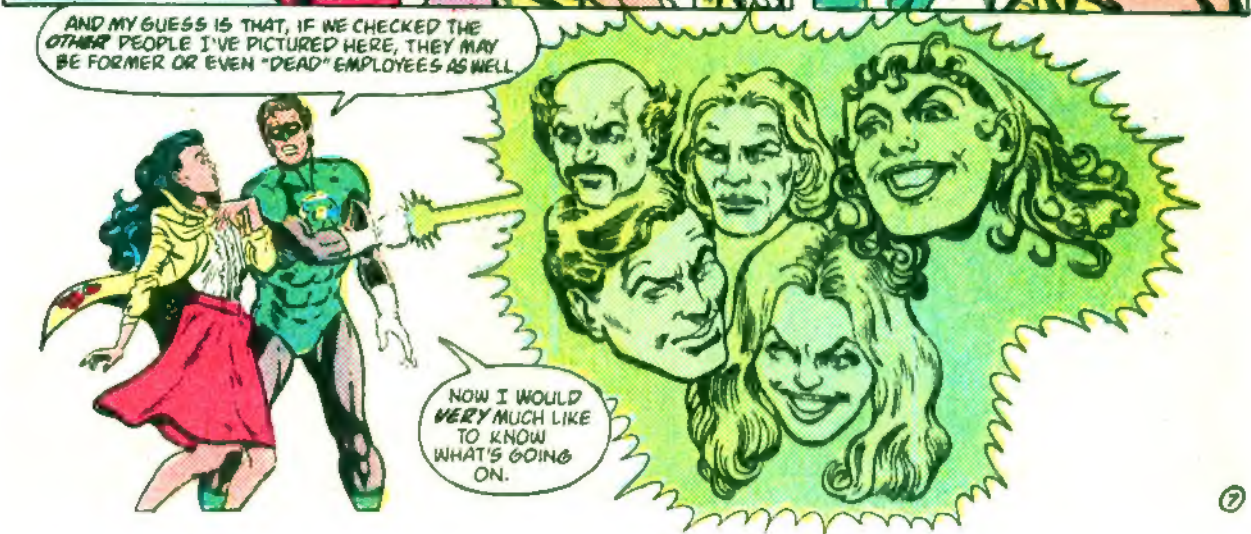
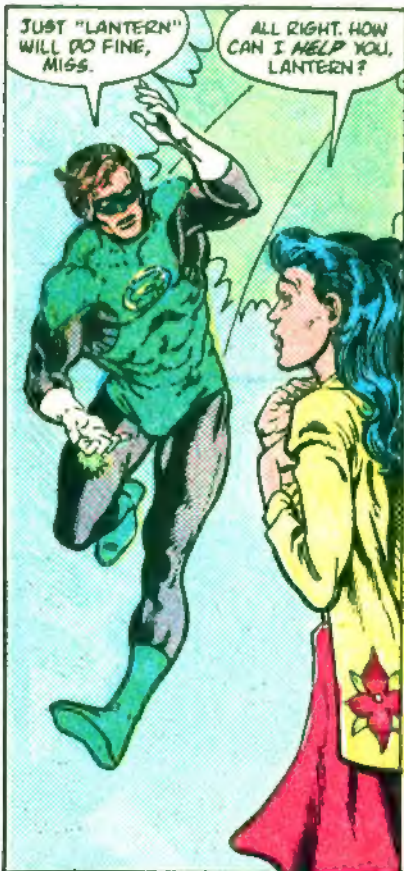
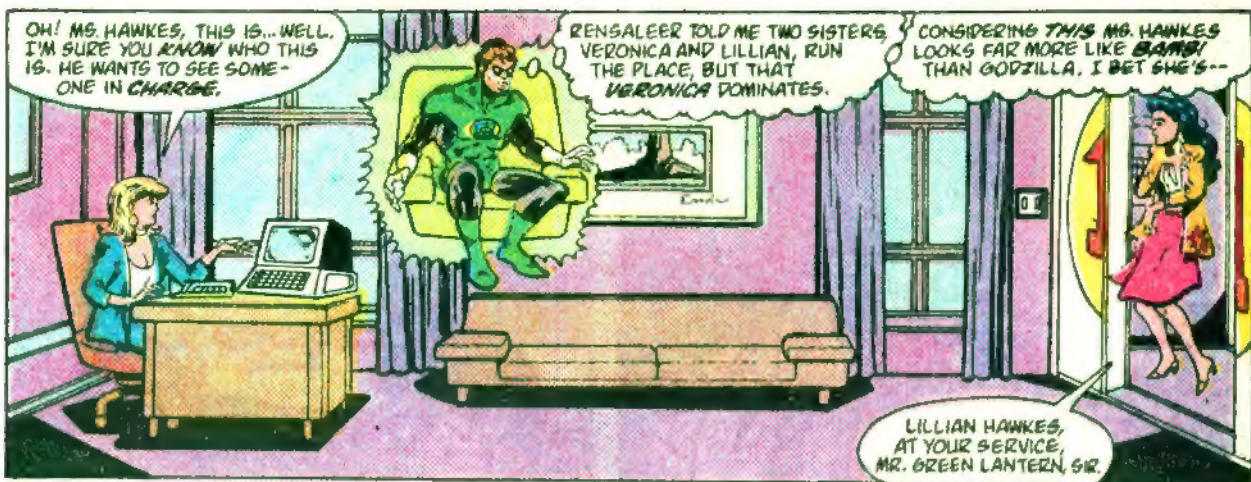
I HAD THEM COLD,
BUT NOW THEY'VE HAD
TIME TO GET AWAY.



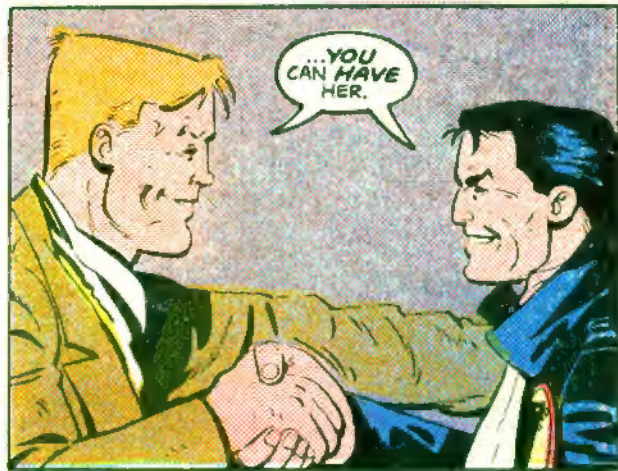
WELL, I'M LEAVING CHICAGO. FOR *GOOD*, I THINK.

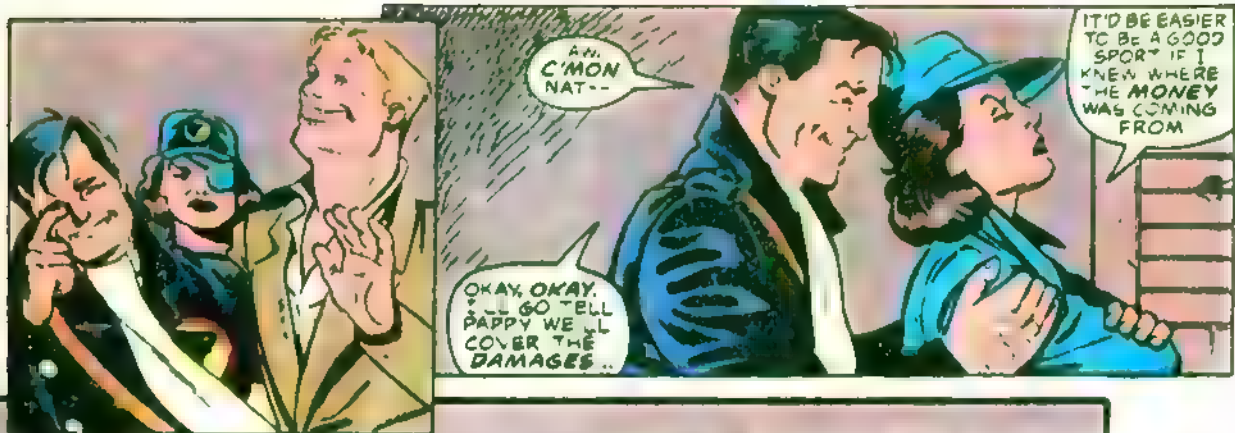












UNHAPPY LANDING

MARTIN
PASKO
WRITER

RICK
BURCHETT
ARTIST

STEVE
HAYNIE
LETTERER

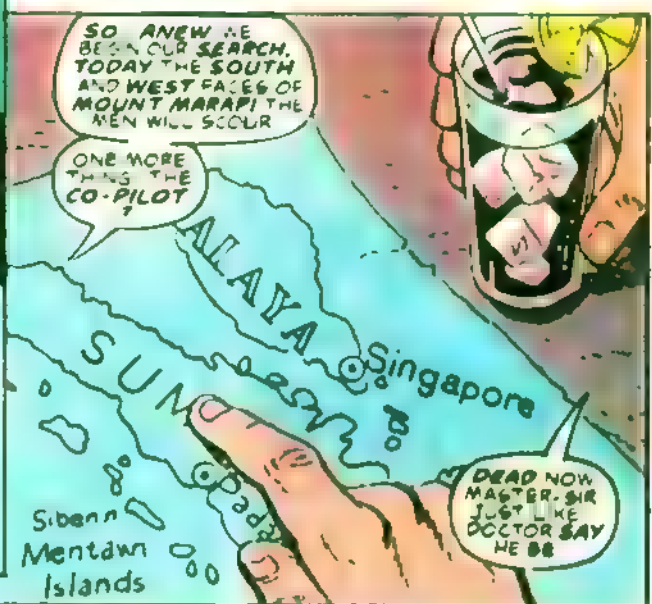
TOM
ZIUKO
COLORIST

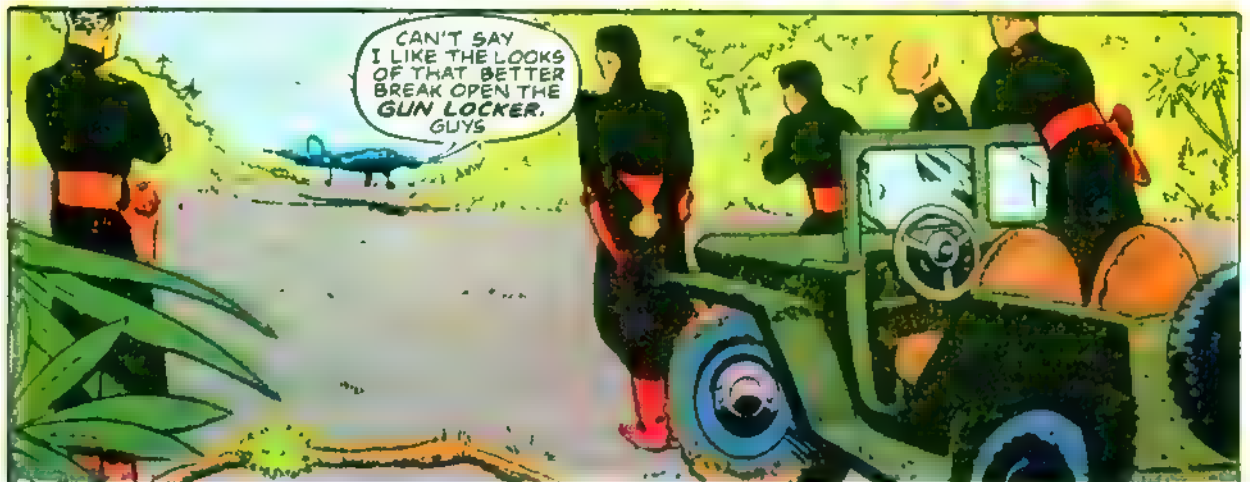
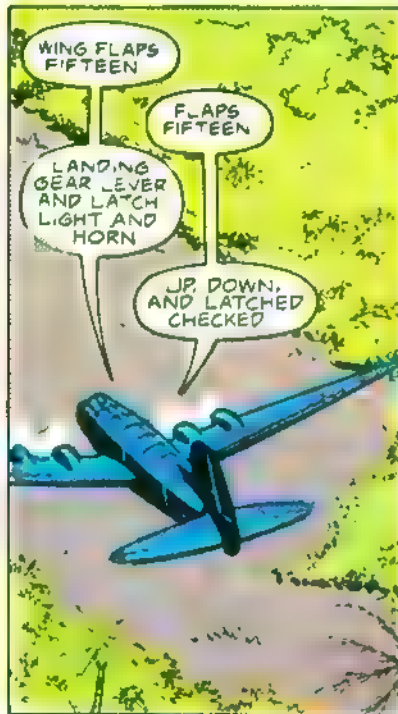
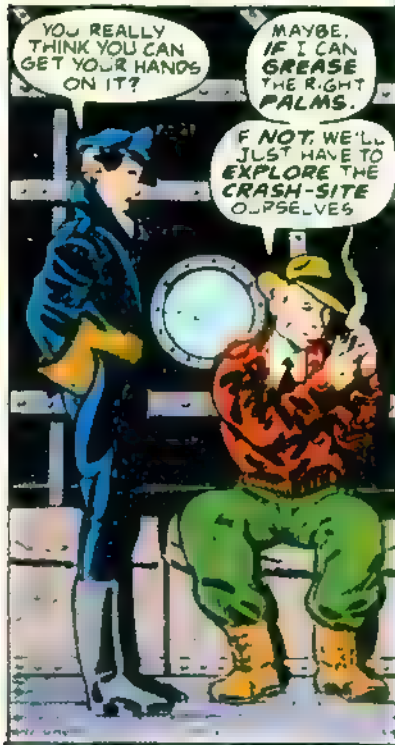
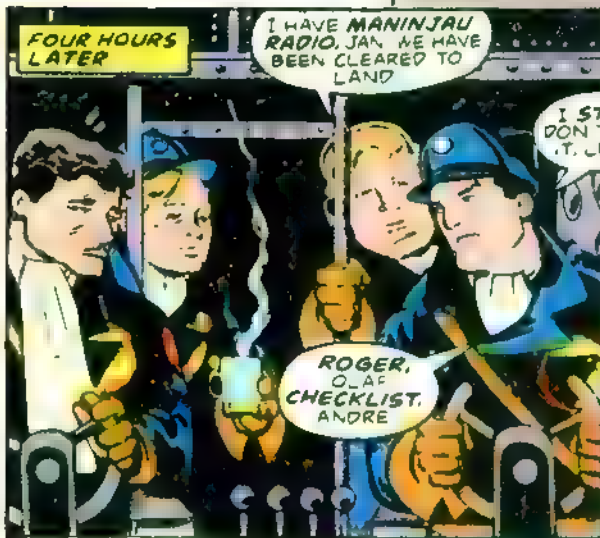
MIKE
GOLD
EDITOR

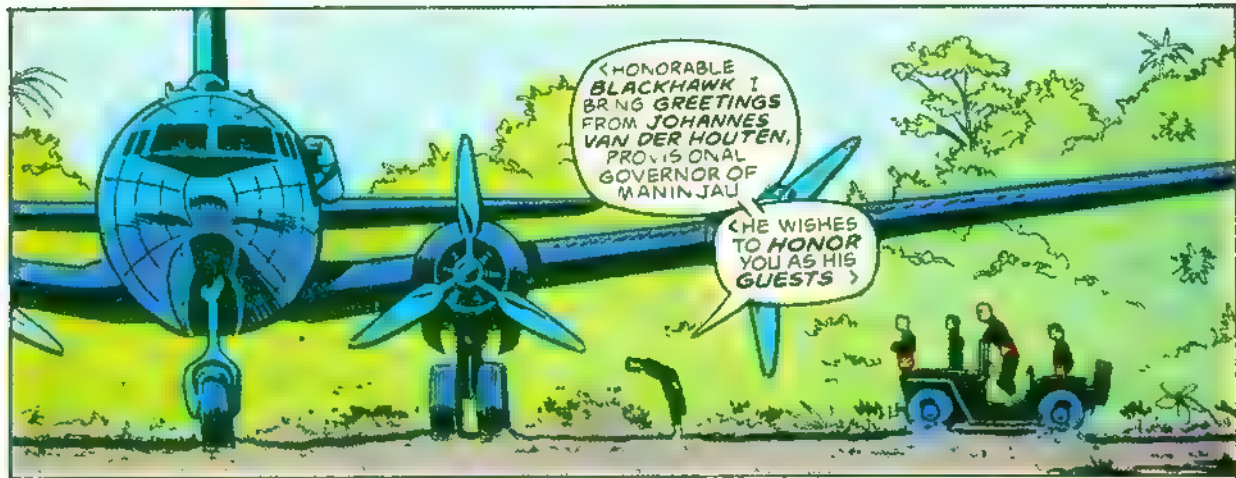
SOME TIME
LATER, IN
SUMATRA

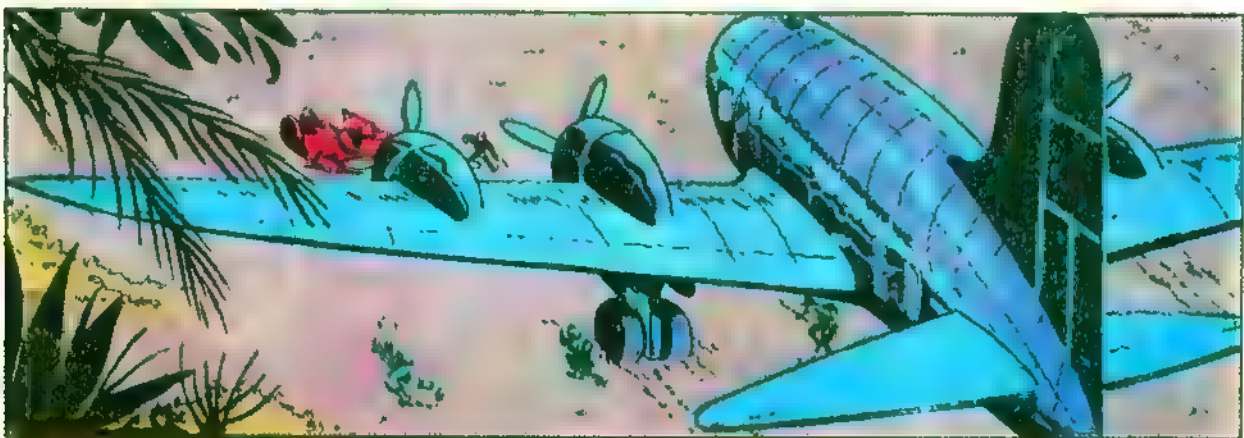
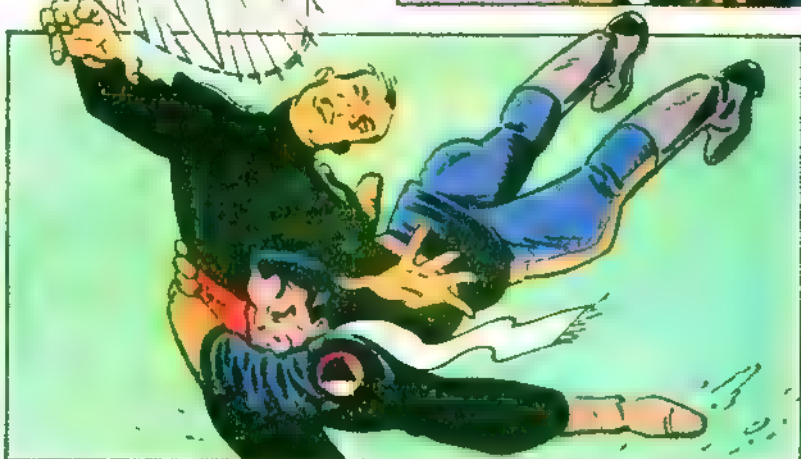
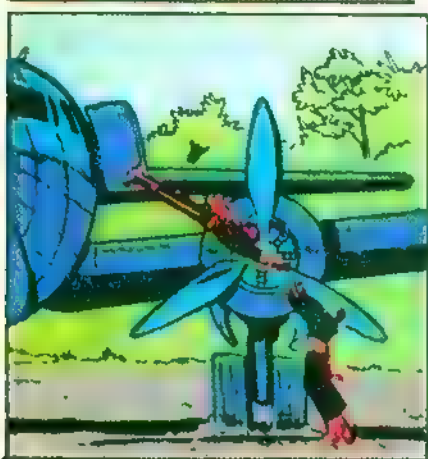
MASTER
VAN DER HOLTEN--
OUR PEOPLE AT
AIRFIELD, THEY SAY
CHARTERED C-47 TO
LAND THERE THIS DAY
MALAYSIAN
REGISTRY

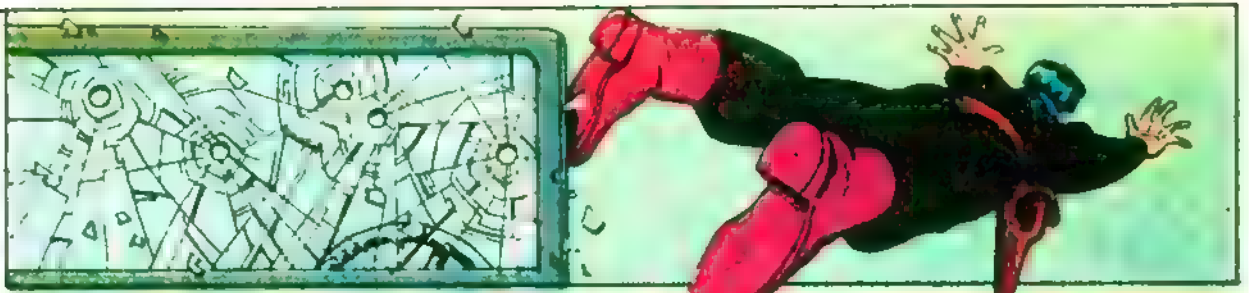
BELONGS TO
ONE CALLED
BLACKHAWK--THE
WAR HERO HE HAS
PASSENGER--A
MR. LESLIE
RICHARDSON.











WILD DOG

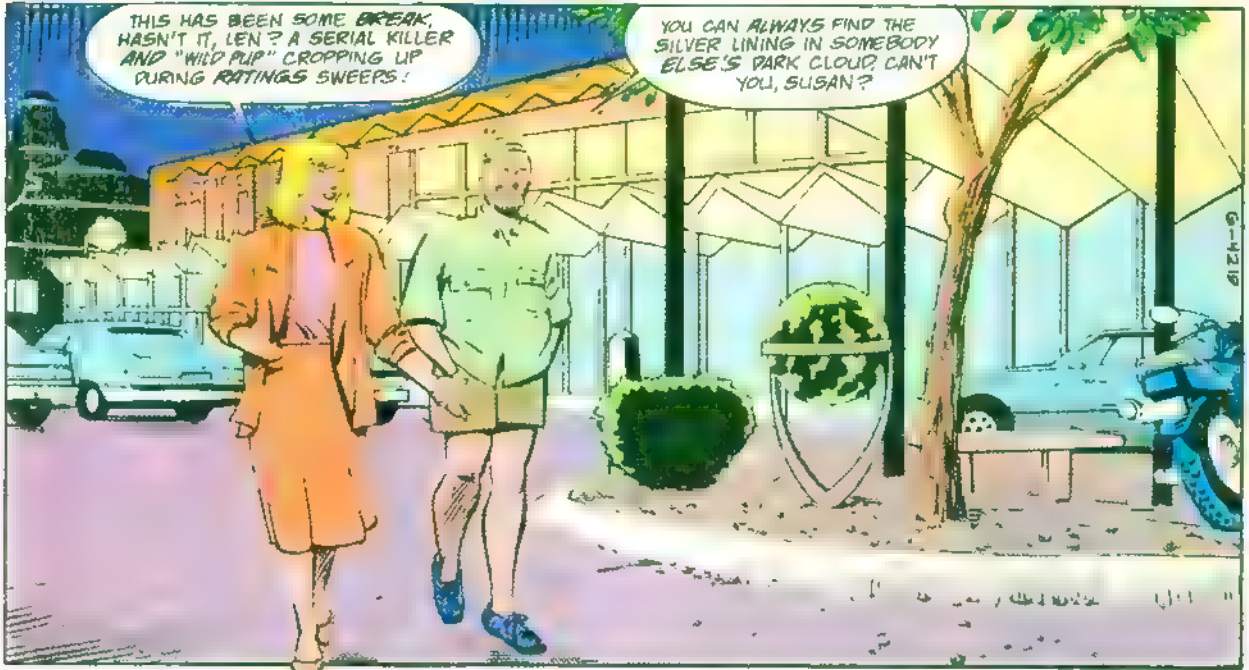
FATAL DISTRACTION



CHAPTER FOUR:

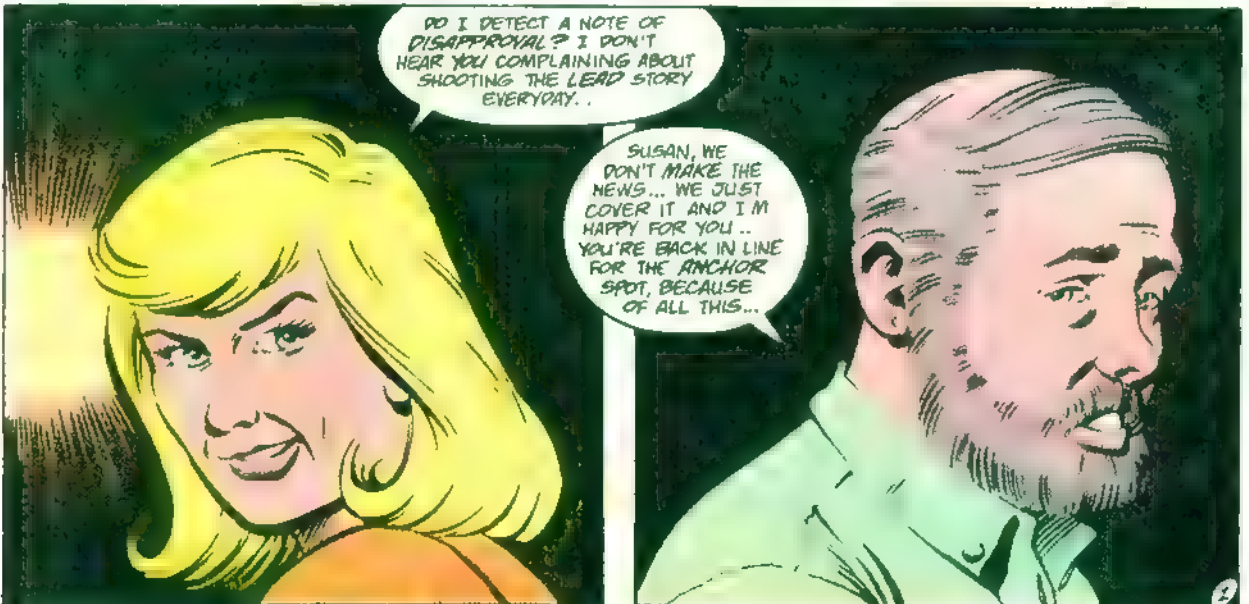
LUCKY NIGHT

MAX ALLAN COLLINS • TERRY BEATTY
WRITER • CO-CREATORS • ARTIST
JOHN NYBERG • TIM HARKINS • CARL GAFFORD
INKER • LETTERER • COLORIST
BRIAN AUGUSTYN • EDITOR



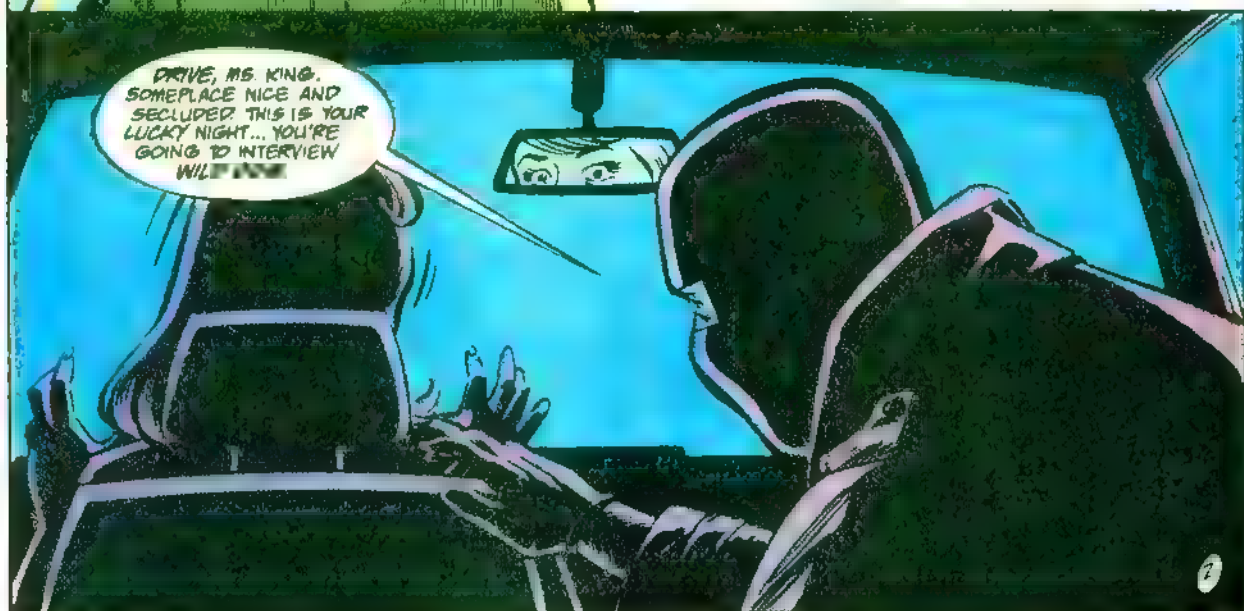
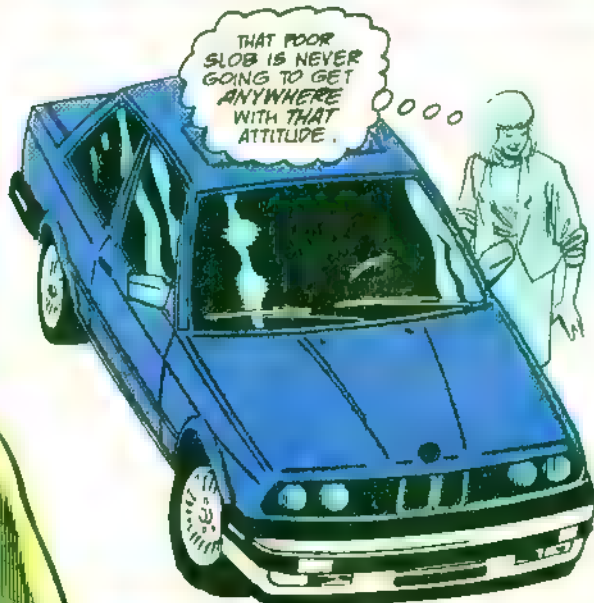
THIS HAS BEEN SOME BREAK, HASN'T IT, LEN? A SERIAL KILLER AND "WILD PUP" CROPPING UP DURING RATINGS SWEEPS!

YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND THE SILVER LINING IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S DARK CLOUD. CAN'T YOU, SUSAN?



DO I DETECT A NOTE OF DISAPPROVAL? I DON'T HEAR YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT SHOOTING THE LEAD STORY EVERYDAY...

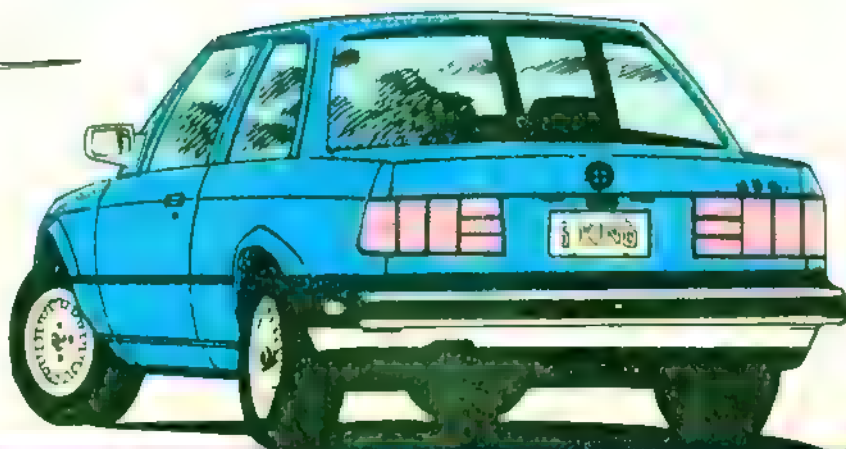
SUSAN, WE DON'T MAKE THE NEWS... WE JUST COVER IT AND I'M HAPPY FOR YOU... YOU'RE BACK IN LINE FOR THE ANCHOR SPOT, BECAUSE OF ALL THIS...



I'M NOT
AFRAID OF YOU
I'VE STUDIED
YOU LIKE NO OTHER
JOURNALIST, AND I
KNOW YOU NEVER
HURT THE
INNOCENT

SINCE WHEN
WERE YOU
EITHER?

EITHER
WHAT?



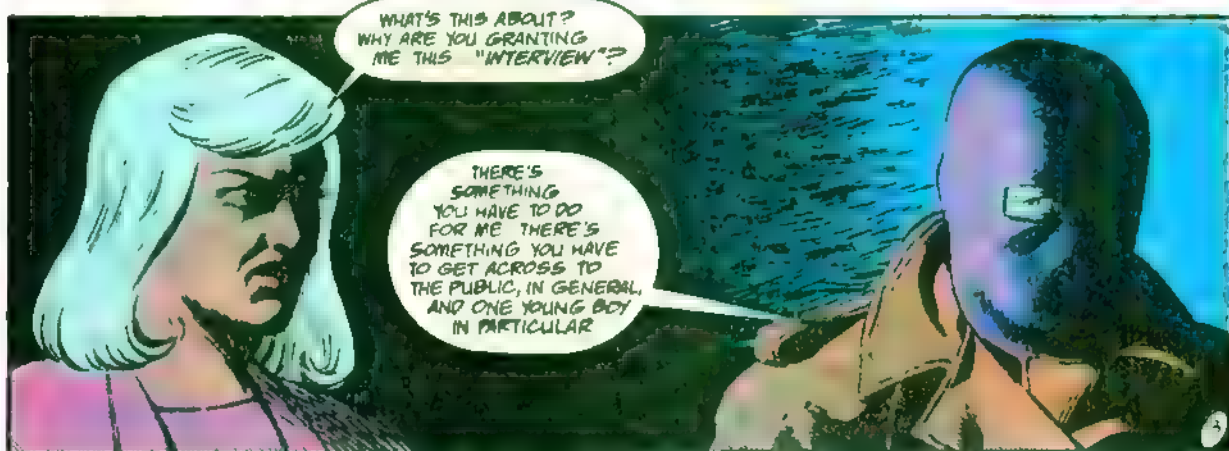
THIS WOULD BE MORE
EFFECTIVE IF I COULD
HAVE MY CAMERAMAN
HERE, TO RECORD
THIS.

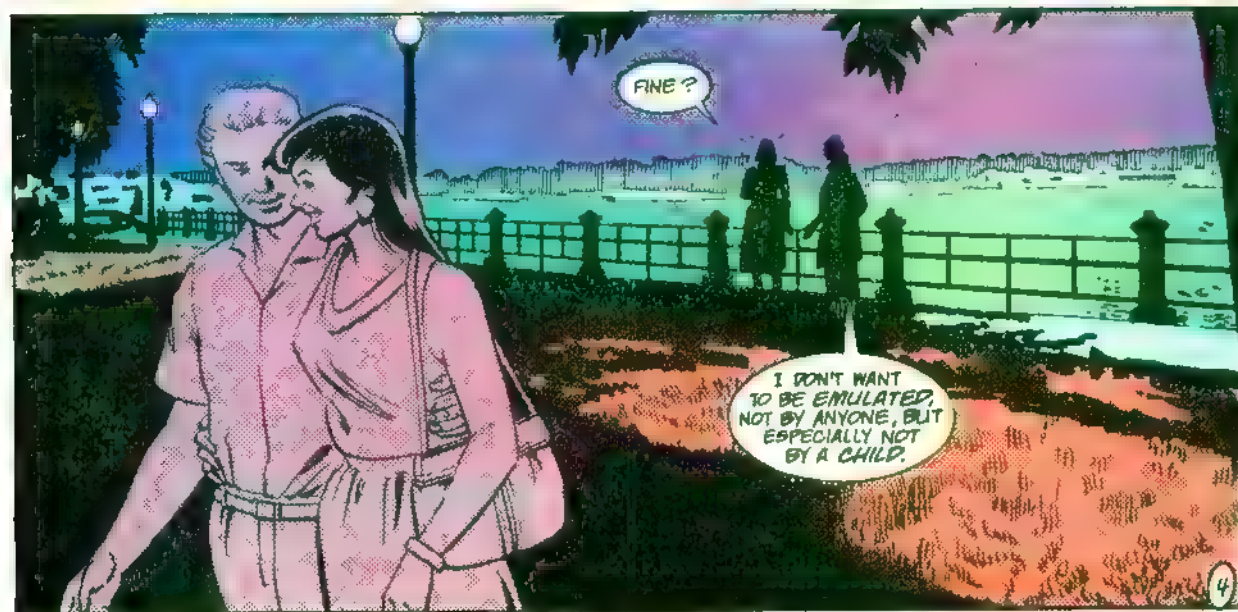
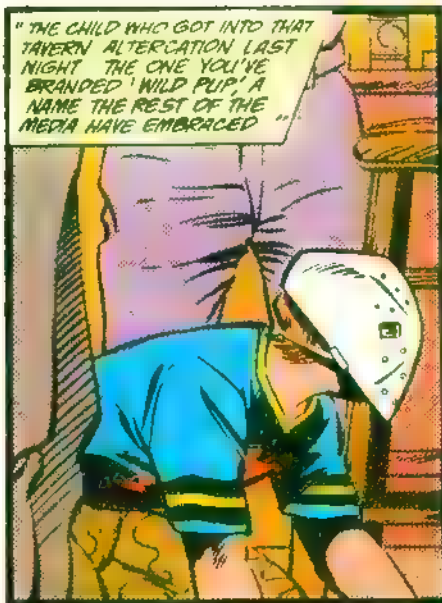
YOU'RE ALREADY RECORDING
THE AUDIO, ON THAT LITTLE
TAPE RECORDER IN YOUR
POCKET THAT'S ENOUGH.

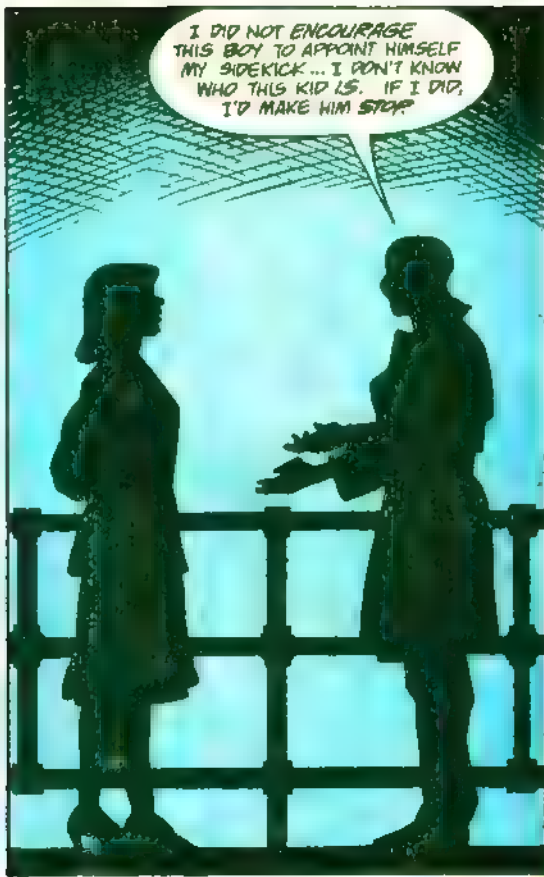


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WHY ARE YOU GRANTING
ME THIS "INTERVIEW"?

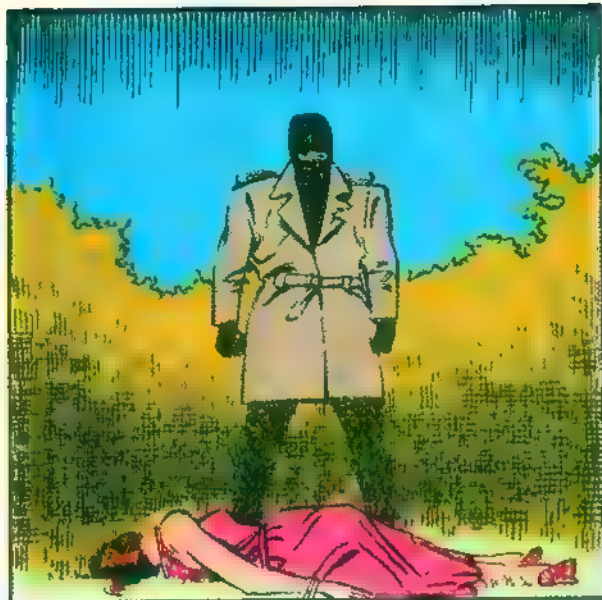
THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU HAVE TO DO
FOR ME THERE'S
SOMETHING YOU HAVE
TO GET ACROSS TO
THE PUBLIC, IN GENERAL,
AND ONE YOUNG BOY
IN PARTICULAR







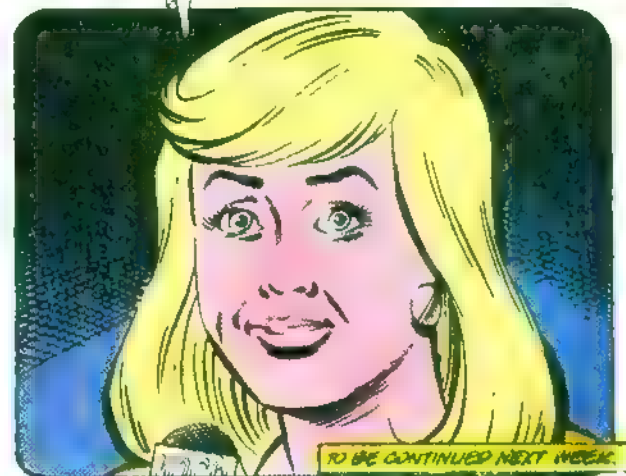




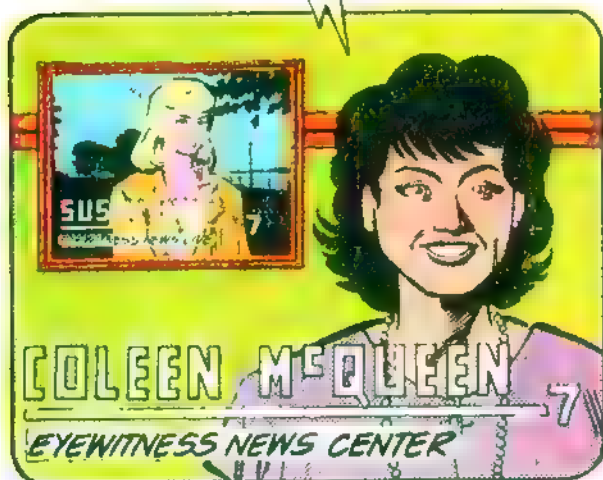
AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE, JUST MINUTES AGO. WILD DOG STUMBLED INTO THE NIGHT, IN APPARENT PURSUIT OF THE NIGHT SLASHER!



YES WE HAVE. EVEN WILD DOG HAS HIS ACHILLES' HEEL.



SUSAN, YOU SAY THAT YOU LEARNED THAT WILD DOG DOES NOT APPROVE OF, OR SEEK THE AID OF, THE SO-CALLED "WILD PUP". BUT HAVE WE LEARNED ANYTHING ELSE?

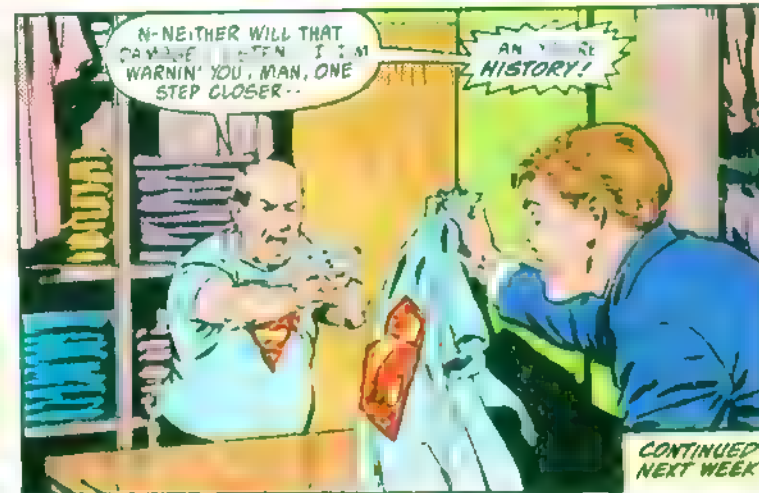
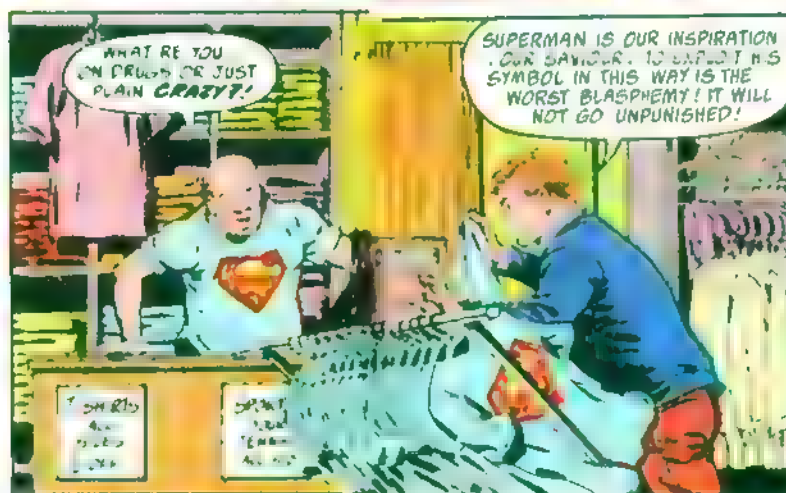
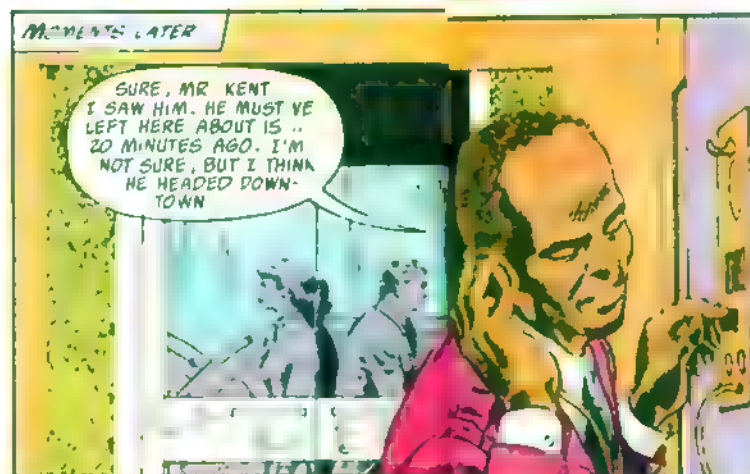
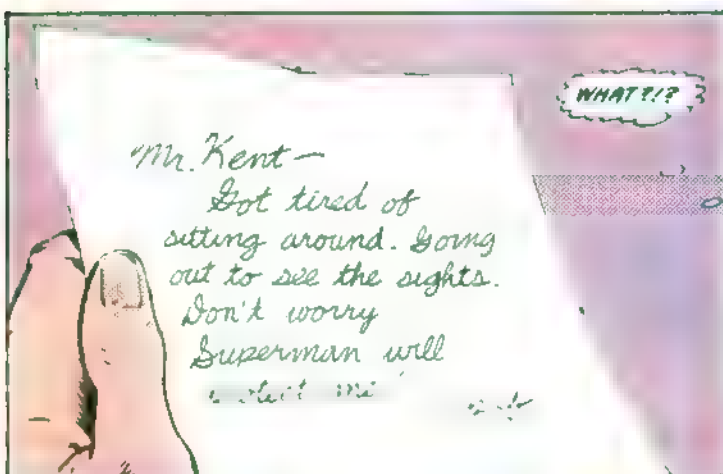
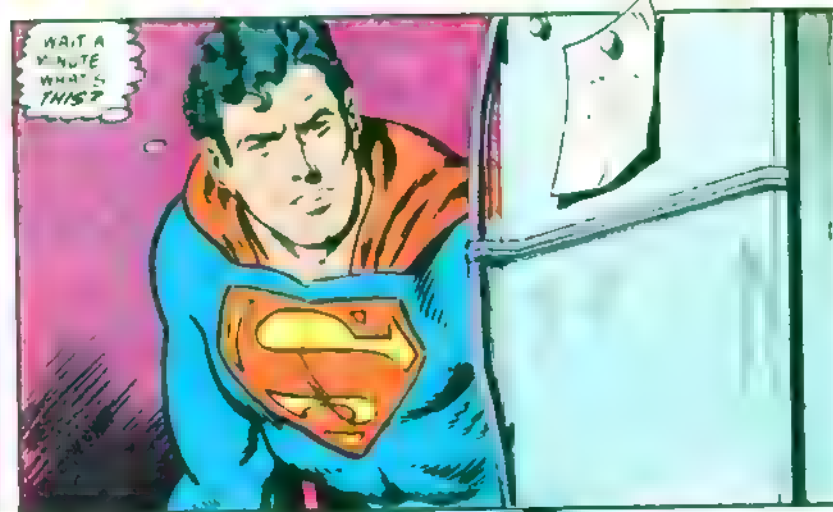
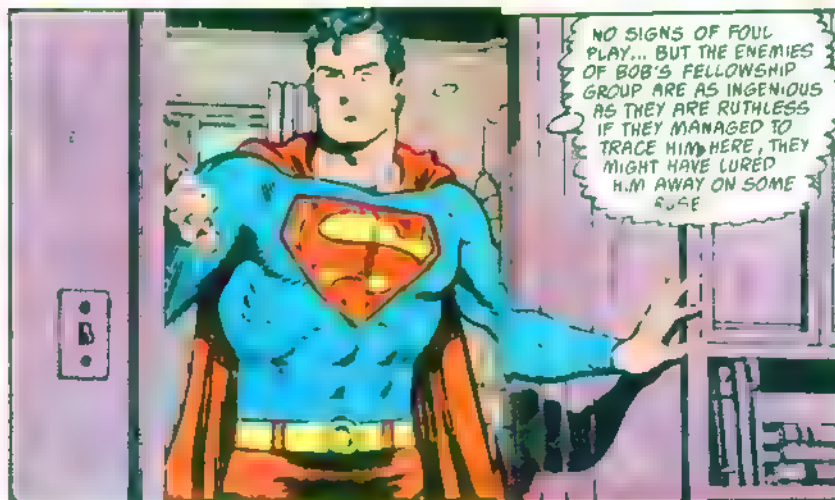


SUPERMAN

Created by
JOHN STURGEON

"OUT ON THE TOWN"

JOHN STERN - WRITER
JOHN STERN - INKER
JOHN STERN - LETTERER
JOHN STERN - COLORIST
JOHN STERN - EDITOR



DEADMAN

BRUCE LEE,
ELVIS AND ME...
ALL DEAD

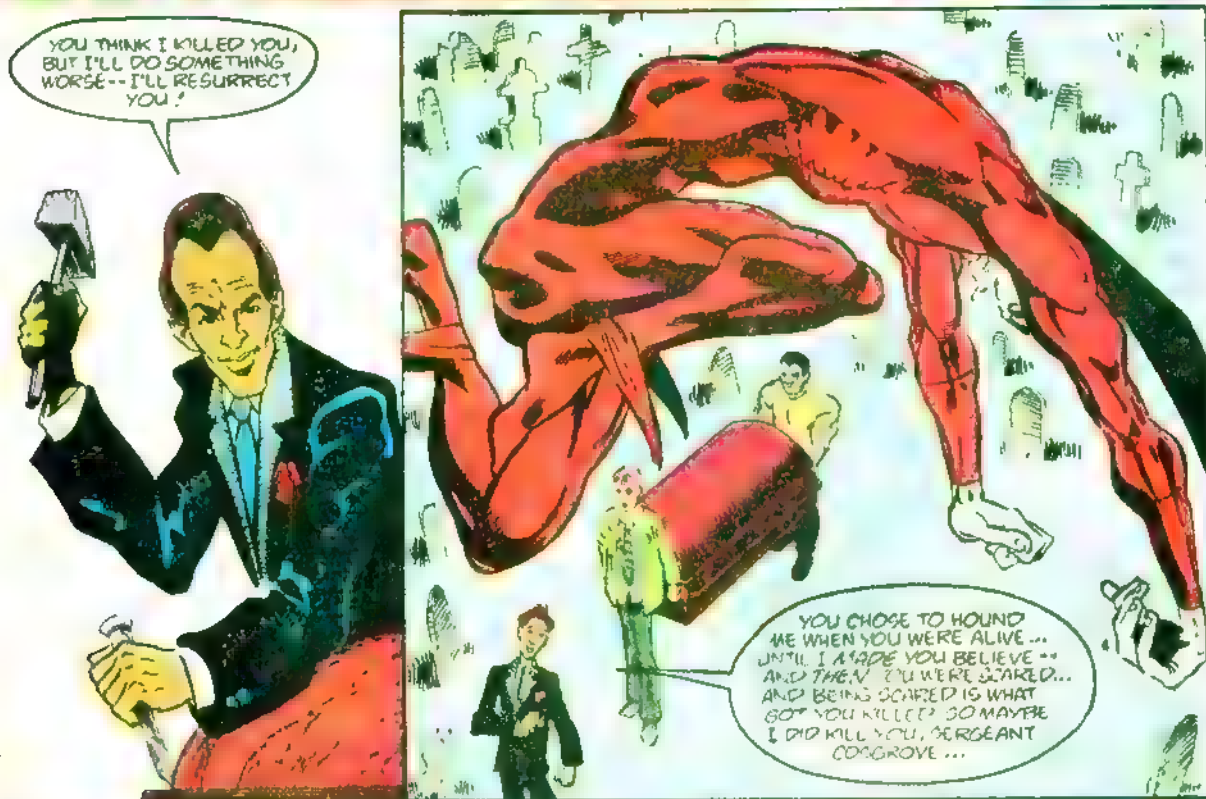
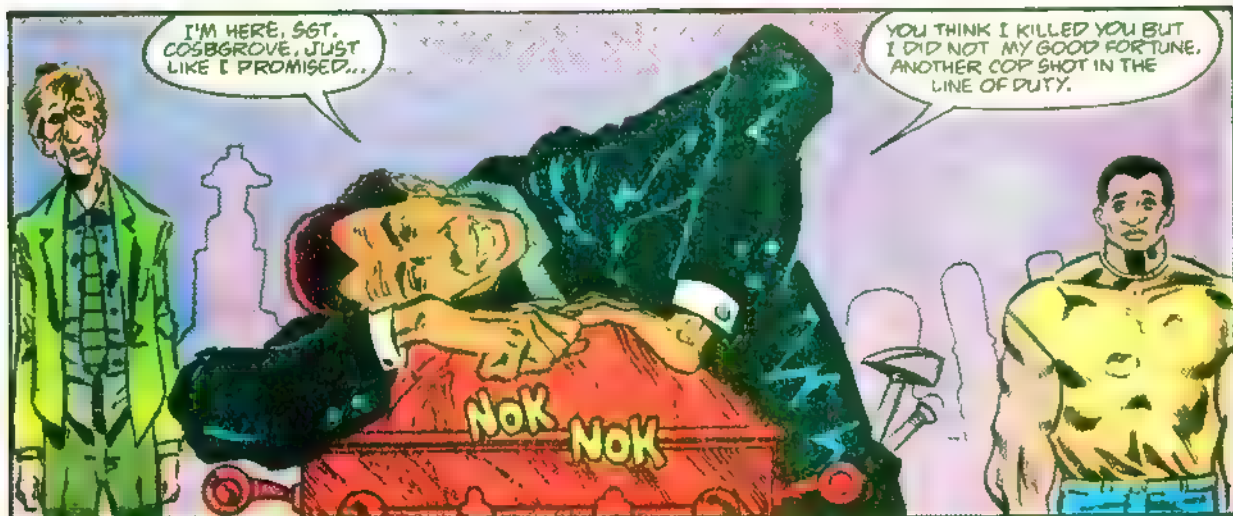
HOW LONG
HAVE I BEEN IN
THIS GRAVEYARD?
A MONTH? MORE?
TIME HAS NO
MEANING.

CHAPTER ONE: GRAVE DOINGS

MIKE BARON - WRITER * KELLEY JONES - PENCILLER
TONY DE ZUNIGA - INKER * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
DANIEL VOZZO - COLORIST * BARBARA KESEL - EDITOR



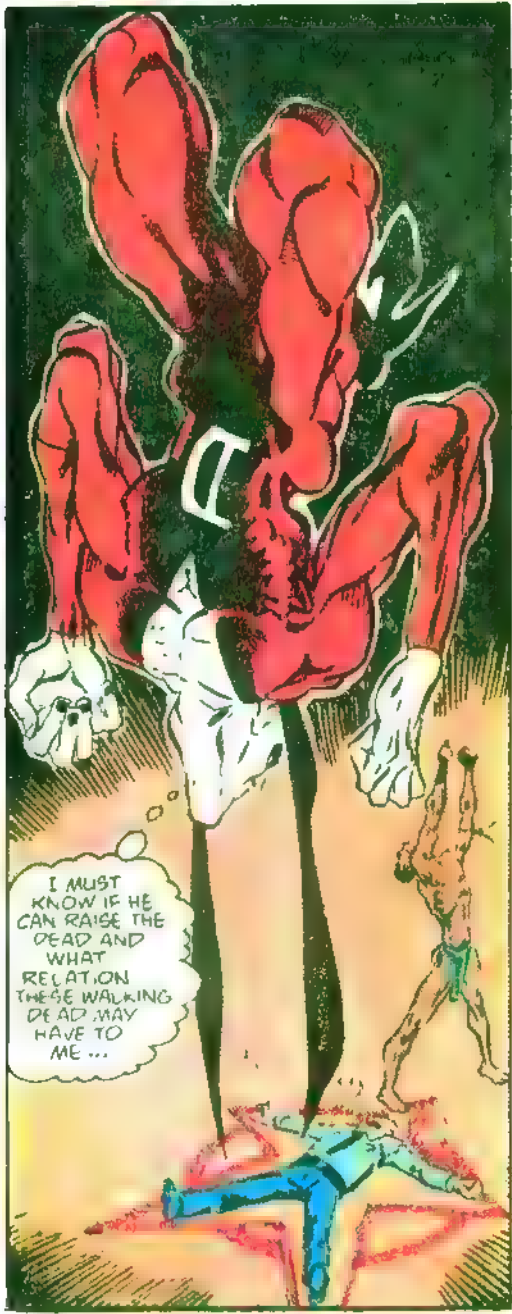
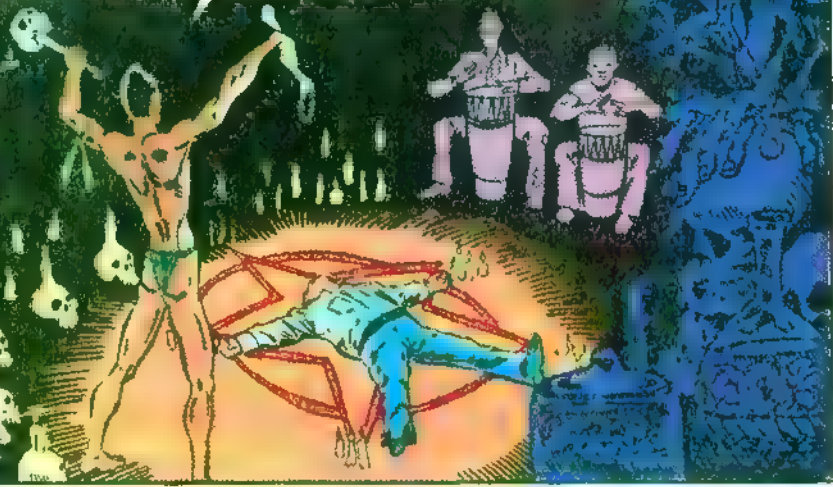




THIS PLACE REEKS OF EVIL--BUT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO--I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THE RULES ARE...



HEAR ME BON DIEU AND IOA!
IT'S ME, YOUR HOUGAN MACOUTE!



I MUST
KNOW IF HE
CAN RAISE THE
DEAD AND
WHAT
RELATION
THESE WALKING
DEAD MAY
HAVE TO
ME...

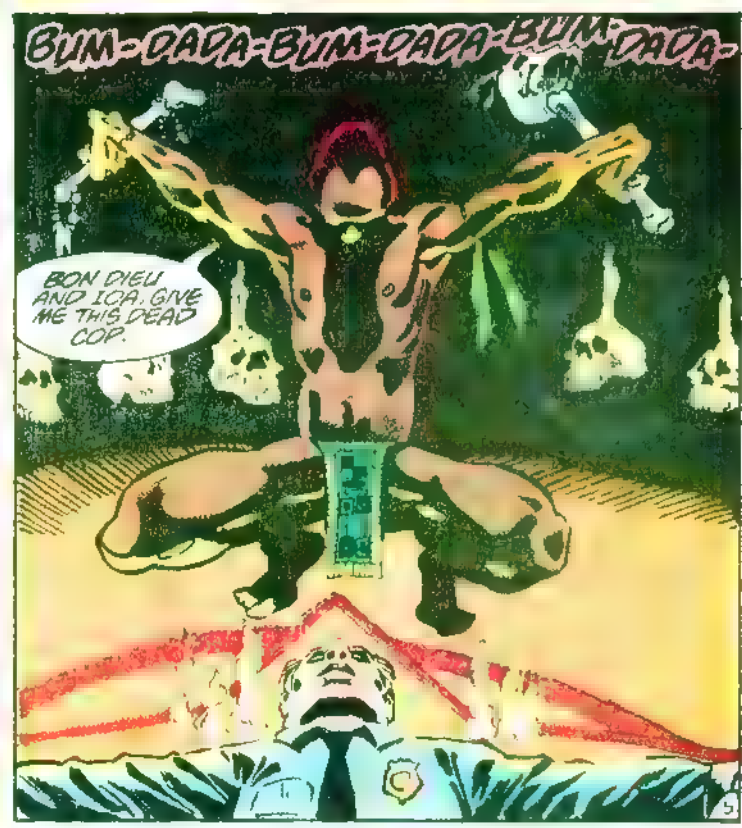
BUM-DADA-BUM-DADA-BUM-DADA-

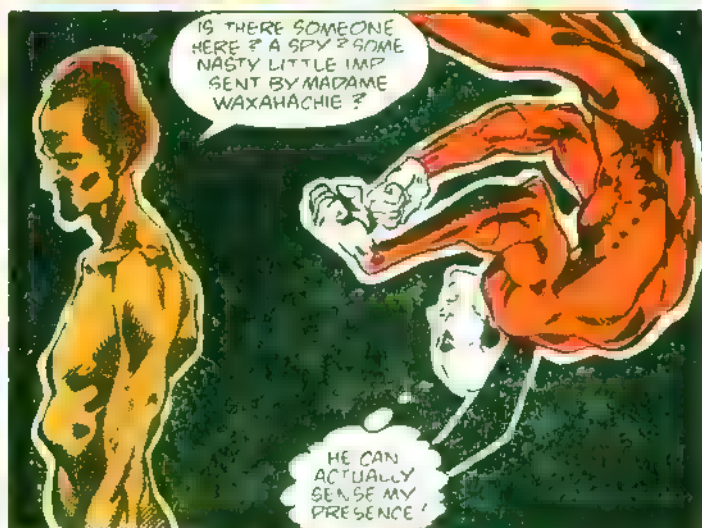
BON DIEU AND
IOA! I'VE STOKED
THE SACRED FIRE!
I'VE BLEED MY OWN
BLOOD INTO YOUR
CUP!

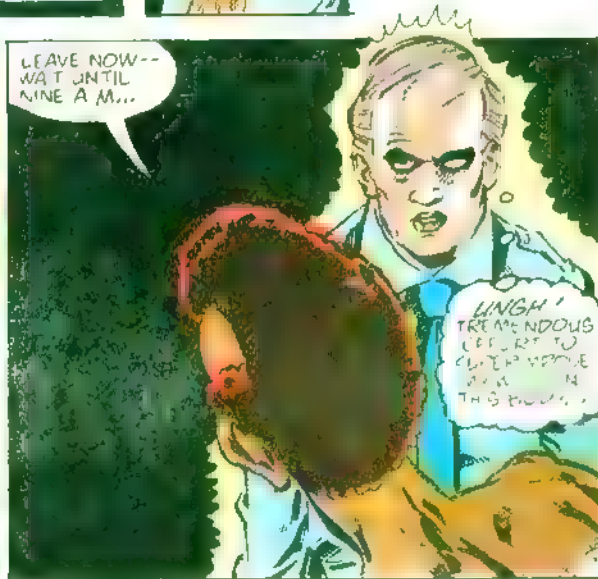
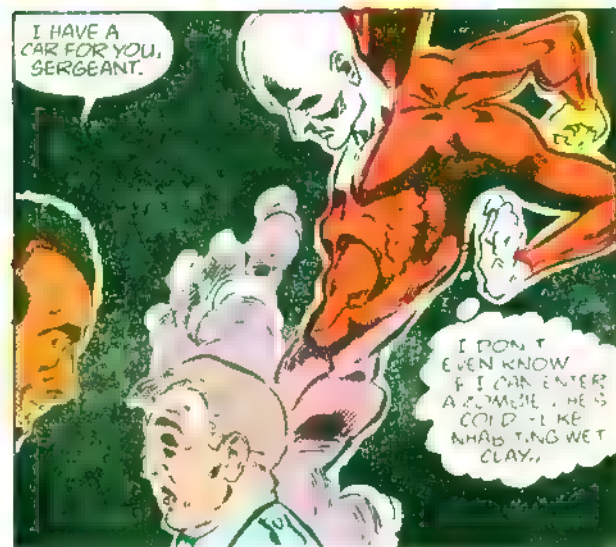
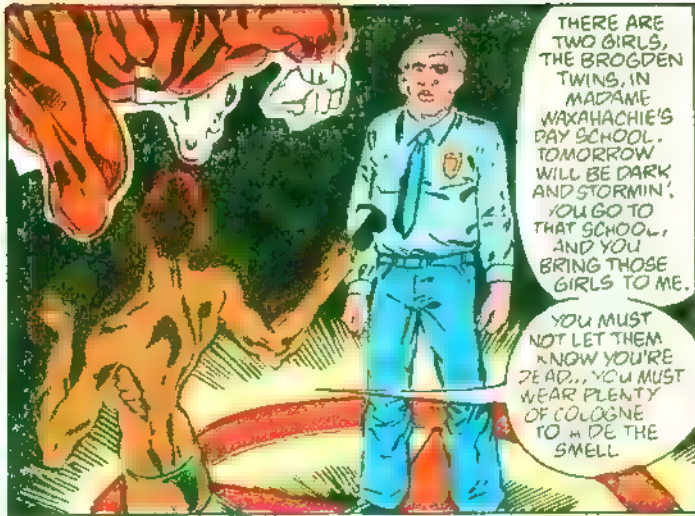


BUM-DADA-BUM-DADA-BUM-DADA-

BON DIEU
AND IOA. GIVE
ME THIS DEAD
COP.









HOUGAN...



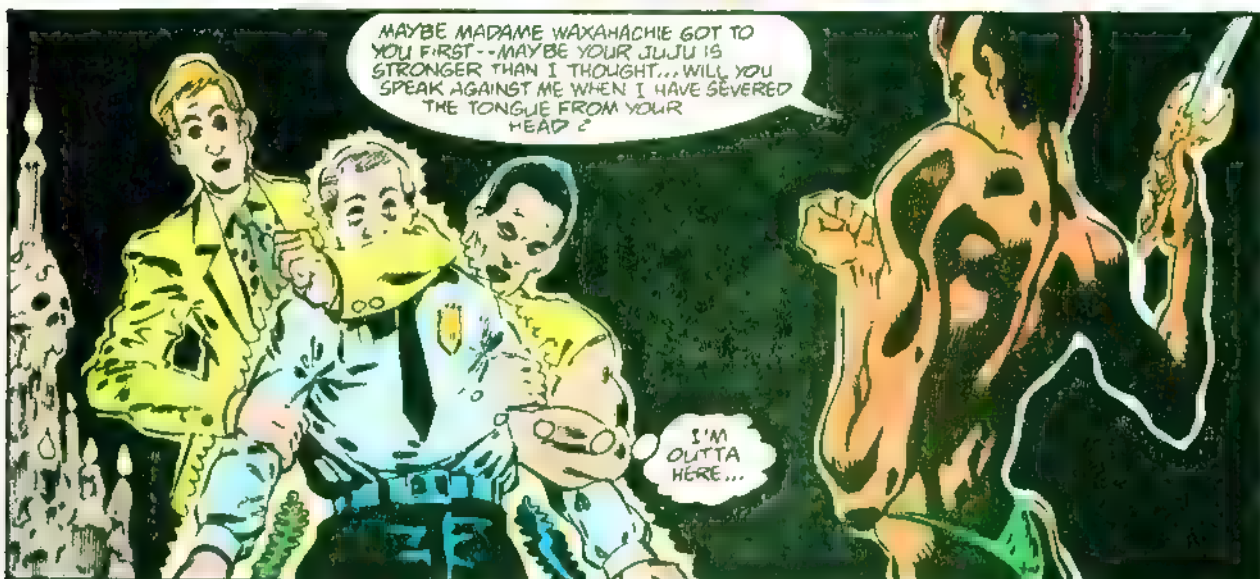
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR DESECRATING MY GRAVE!



NO!!!

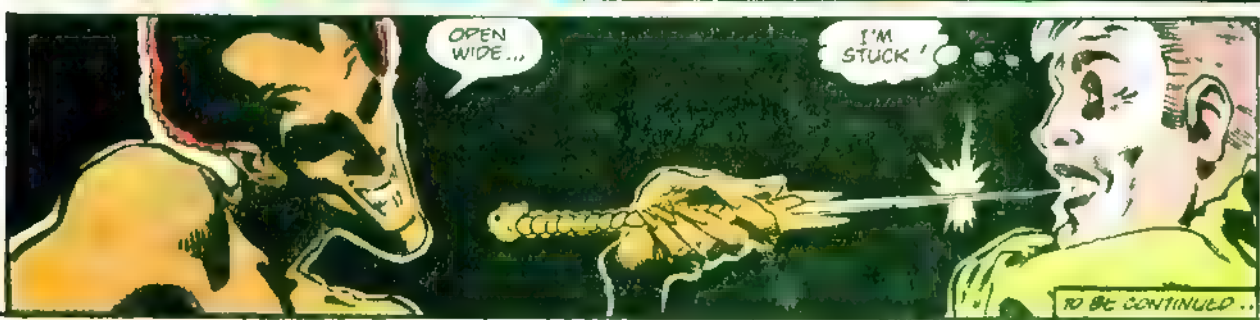


STOP HIM, MY SLAVES!



MAYBE MADAME WAXAHACHIE GOT TO YOU FIRST--MAYBE YOUR JUJU IS STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT... WILL YOU SPEAK AGAINST ME WHEN I HAVE SEVERED THE TONGUE FROM YOUR HEAD?

I'M OUTTA HERE...



OPEN WIDE...

I'M STUCK!

TO BE CONTINUED...



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666 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10103
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L-3348

Dear Mike

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU FINALLY DID IT! What I mean by that is that you have done everything necessary to make ACTION COMICS WEEKLY the best it can be (with one exception that I'll get back to later). First, you put together some great characters (Green Lantern, Superman, Deadman). Then you got great writers and artists to make those characters come to life. Finally, you got Marvel to copy your idea of recreating the anthology comic. You've done it all!

I think that all (with one exception as I mentioned earlier) of the titles in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY are great. I would like to make just a couple of comments on Secret Six. The first is that it is AWFUL! I have even stopped reading it. The second is—DROP IT! Don't waste eight pages a week on it!

Mike Schaffer
 1115 Cayuga
 Northbrook, IL 60062

Actually, Marvel hardly copied ACW—their book is a bi-weekly, and each issue is headed up by an X-Men solo feature. Not the most courageous way to launch a title, but I'm sure it's making The House of Ideas a lot of money.

.....

Dear Actioneers,

Although the new weekly title has had an inconsistent look about it so far, and still suffers from a need to have stories better paced for the format, issue #607 was the best yet, overall, showing things are coming together nicely. It's difficult to suddenly switch to what is, in the 80s, a new format of shorter stories in an anthology title, and there's also bound to be retailer and reader commercial resistance, and the verdict on whether this is the right decision is not yet in. But at least you're now approaching the quality necessary to maintain the book.

The problems faced are several. First of all there is the price. \$1.50 an issue for 48 pages is good value. However that does work out at \$7.50 per month given the fact that some months have five weeks in them, which is quite a lot for, say, someone still in school to add to their comics budget.

Then there is the content. Variety is essential in this comic, but at the same time variety means that you'll be pleasing most of the people some of the time, but that, say, your avid super-hero fan

will enjoy the Green Lantern and Superman stories much more than Blackhawk or Wild Dog, and might not want to spend that much money for liking only a third or a half of the features.

There's also the eight-page a chapter format. This is both new to the reader (in America, anyway—it's the tradition over here to have shorter stories), and the writer, and it shows with, so far, as I've said, poor pacing. Max Collins is the only one of the writers used to writing in chapters and the others are having difficulty adapting. The Superman strip, meanwhile, whilst it's all very nice seeing Curt Swan drawing the Man of Steel again, is hopelessly out of place—it would be a better feature in *Direct Currents*.

Having said all that, I'm enjoying the book. My variety of taste in comics includes all the featured strips, and if each had his own book, I'm sure I'd be picking them all up. I'm prepared to wait through the early formative issues for things to settle down. And I'm very happy to see all these features simply existing. I hope enough others are too—I hear mixed reactions in the shops here. If not you may have to go back to today's accepted genre and give each feature its own min. series.

By the way, that was a fantastic Steve Lightle cover. Why oh why doesn't this man have a regular series?

Malcolm Bourne
 87 Greenfield Gardens
 Cricklewood
 London NW2 1HJ
 ENG. AND

Because there's only so many hours in the day, and Steve enjoys filling them by doing covers and the occasional Legion feature. Steve's one of the best, and I'd love to see him on a monthly.

.....

THE GREAT ACTION
 COMICS WEEKLY POLL!
 ACW #607 (previous issue's standing in parenthesis)

- 1 Green Lantern (1)
- 2 Blackhawk (3)
- 3 Deadman (2)
- 4 Wild Dog (4)
- 5 Superman (6)
- 6 Secret Six (5)

.....

Dear Mike,

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #607 was graced by the best cover since Perez' Green Lantern on the cover of #602! I would love to see Steve Lightle draw the Secret Six on a regular basis—any chance of that?

The Green Lantern story was great! I'm glad that Hal is taking charge of his life. His self-pity routine turned me off in a way (although it was still interesting reading) and it is past time that he actively seek to exonerate John Stewart. As I look over the first seven issues of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, Green Lantern was my favorite in four—and I look forward to more of the same.

Deadman is rather fascinating lately. I noticed the use of repetitive panels—they seemed to heighten the weird reality of hell.

I have mixed feelings about Wild Dog. Before ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, I had never heard of him. His costume is great—it's the kind of improvised duds that a real super hero would wear, rather than some fancy outfit. However, the Task Force seems much too similar to the Watchdogs in *Captain America*. I have enjoyed a couple of the Wild Dog serials but it is not usually a favor to mine.

I never know what to think about the Superman two-pagers. Swan's art is beautiful but two pages doesn't allow for much plot development.

As with Wild Dog, the Secret Six is new to me. But the mystery about the plane crash and Mockingbird's identity is enticing. Any chance that we will soon see who wears the hood? How about providing us with some subtle yet telling clues?

Finally, Blackhawk, my second favorite serial. But what's this—Blackhawk is leaving for a while? NO NO NO!! Why not rotate Wild Dog out now and then—more Blackhawk! It's fascinating to read his adventures after World War II.

I can't get over Lightle's cover—please have him do a Secret Six serial!

Jon Iverson
 7004 S 12th #2110
 Tacoma WA 98465

How about a BLACKHAWK ANNUAL? For that matter, how about a GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL? And, while we're at it, a DEADMAN graphic novel? All three are on tap for 1989.

But don't worry—The Blackhawks will maintain a regular presence here in

ACW—you'll be seeing them in most issues

WHILE YOU'RE CASTING YOUR VOTES IN OUR WEEKLY SURVEYS please include a line or two of comment on the stories themselves. We're getting a ton of votes each week, and we're getting our share of letters of comment, but there are a whole lot of people who are *only* voting. That's O.K. by us, but if you've got the time to include a few words of comment as well, hey, that's even better

Dear ACTION

The cover was much better than the last. Much better.

I'm feeling very foggy right now, so this is gonna be short.

The review

The Green Lantern story I didn't enjoy it that much. Hal's acting more and more like a wimp. Also, what happened to Gil Kane?

Deadman: I liked it. I didn't understand it, but I liked it.

Wild Dog: I see that he did bring his gun. Well, why didn't he use it in the first place? Foolish! Good story.

Superman: Interesting. Not much else, though.

Secret Six: This was a good story. Nice ending.

Blackhawk: Next issue's the conclusion? I don't know, there wasn't a whole lot of story here. The Blackhawk series started out good, but as of late has been going downhill.

Nick Damon
4640 Grisham Ave
Long Beach, CA 90805

Dear Mike, Robert, and Brian

Here's Sperling's Seventh Scorecard on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY.

1) Blackhawk: Nothing too revolutionary here, but Cynthia Hastings' secret (or what I perceive to be her secret) came as a jolt: the approaching storm was beautifully handled, Tom Zilko's colors were excellent and Janos Prohaska is a man of his word. Even though I was aware of the last, it was good to see it reaffirmed. Hope the 'High Flying Finale' lives up to its hyperbole.

2) Deadman—John Fogerty told us to be wary of The Odd Man Down the Road, now Mike Baron tells us to watch out for The Odd Man in the Cave, and then confuses the (can't resist) hell out of us with a couple of Senses and our old friend D.B. Cooper. Not as coherent as previous chapters (hence it's No. 2 this week), but like Boston. I had a good time with it.

3) Green Lantern: Hal Jordan as a man in doubt is a very compelling hero, even if the doubts reflect an incredibly confused chronological scheme (Hal's living with Arisia? Wasn't she staying at

the Green Lantern Corps Citadel with Kilowog last week? If so much time has passed, why hasn't John Stewart's name been cleared yet?), and the art chores aren't in Gil's hands. I don't know if the Oprah show is the answer for Hal, but it sounds like a good start. I'm rooting for him!

4) Secret Six—Martin Pasko is giving the new agents their own quirks. I like, and share, Mitch Hoberman's reservations about the Ralph Dorn assignment. I don't like Vic Sommers' personality, but it's very credible, and if this Six does not include Mockingbird, the group will need a field leader. Vic is the man for the job. The incorporation of Rafael's story was good, and as long as the new group has a strong link to the old one, the series will continue to improve. But if Carlo isn't Mockingbird, you've got a lot of explaining to do, and if he is, you shouldn't keep it a mystery too much longer. (By the way, that specialist in Switzerland hinted that Mockingbird is a very powerful individual. Play that up in stories to come.) Expect an apology from me soon on this; things seem to be coming together, even if retribution is not ridicule (page 5, panel 2).

5) Superman: Still not what I'm used to, but the reflective Man of Steel was very much to my liking. I particularly enjoyed his thoughts on tolerance and the Batman, and

6) Wild Dog—This story moved very fast, and that pacing made it seem better than it actually was (yeah, I know it's sixth, but Mr. Hockey Mask didn't tick me off as much as usual). However, this is a disturbingly superficial strip, when Wild Dog took his leave of the Task Force Leader, we saw how little distance there was between the two men. Presumably, Wild Dog's anti-terrorist, regard

less of the villains' political stance, but if he had to choose sides he would be with B. Lyle Layman. E.M. Forster would have approved of Lou Godder's protection of Jack, I don't know if I do. Maybe if I'd played football with him or if he'd saved my daughter's life, but as a casual reader, I think he goes too far in one direction and not nearly far enough in others.

Well, so much for this week. Be seeing you.

Charles J. Sperling
Apt. 4 C
37-15 Parsons Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11354

Next week: A Deadman cover by Esteban Maroto, and continuing excitement with Superman, Green Lantern, Blackhawk, Wild Dog, Deadman, and Secret Six.

See you in seven!

Mike Gold

***** VOTE! *****

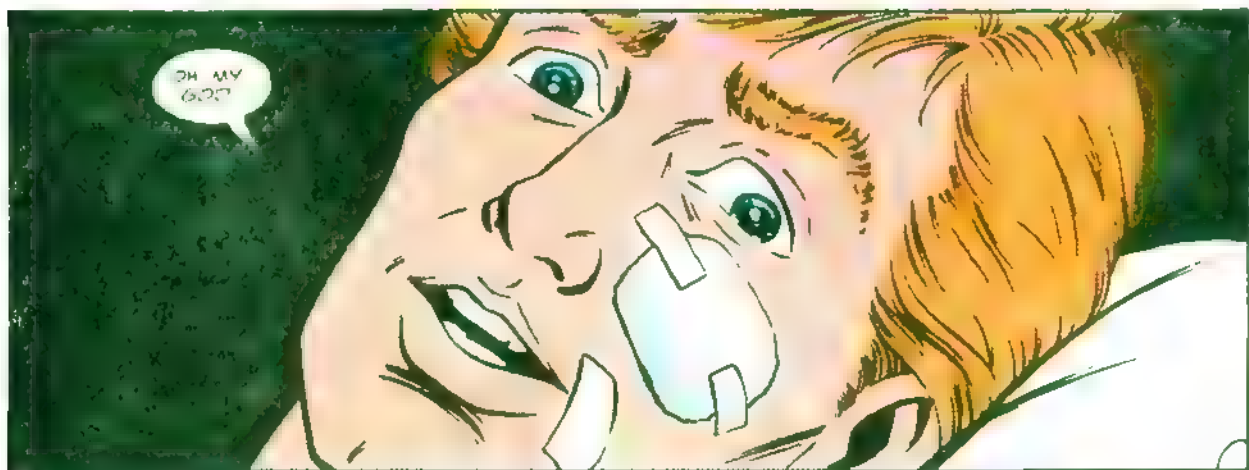
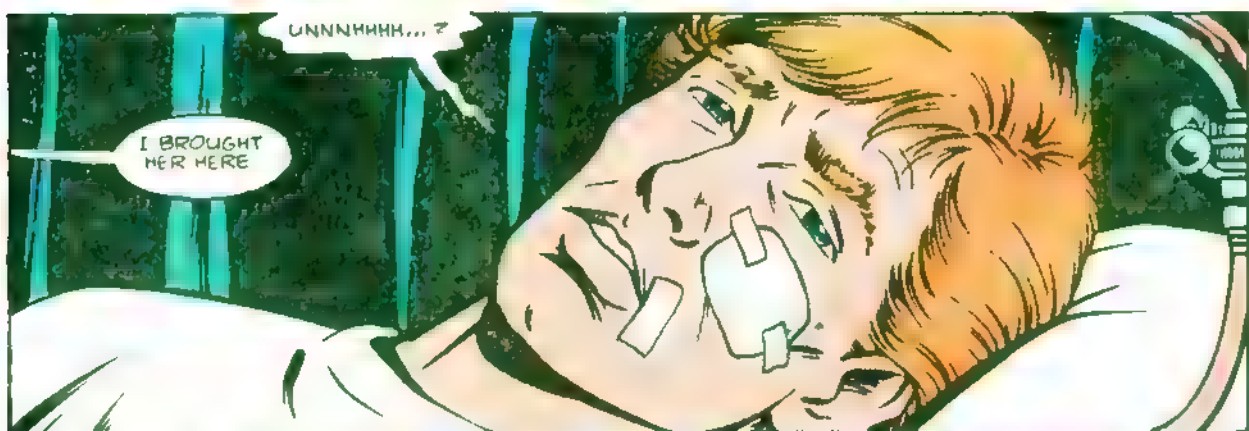
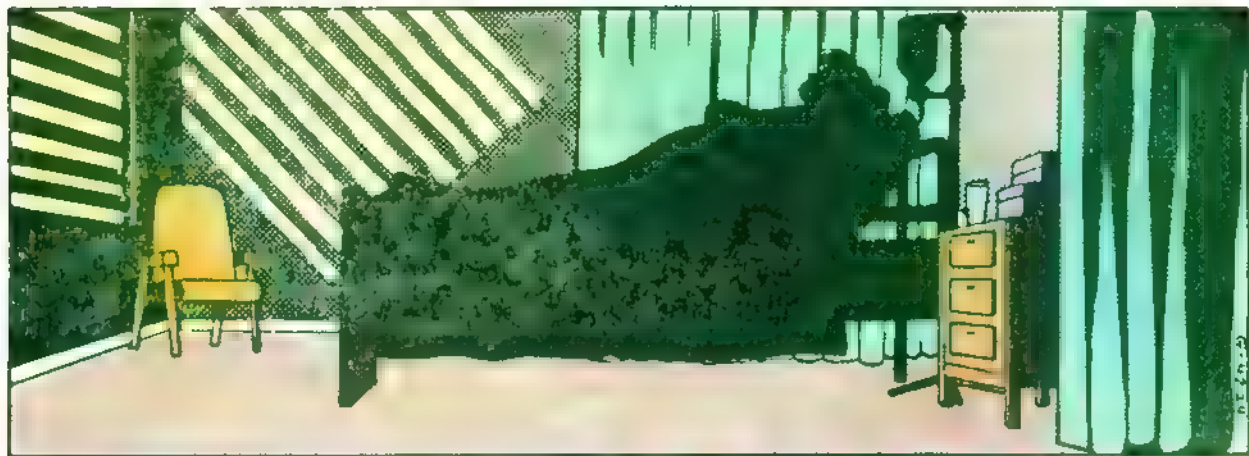
Just as soon as you've finished this issue of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference: the one you like the most, first, the one you liked second, second, and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so VOTE!

Send your ballots to:

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